

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00  
EB-07 EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00  
USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01  
AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 CEQ-01 EPA-04  
DOTE-00 HUD-02 HEW-06 STR-04 INT-05 FEA-01 ERDA-07  
DLOS-06 SAL-01 /165 W

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 4728

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 19TH SESSION

1. SUMMARY: (A) ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGREED TO GIVE PRIORITY IN 1978 PROGRAM TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS WE SEE AS IMPORTANT : ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT, TOXIC CHEMICALS, AND OTHER REAL TRANSFRONTIER ISSUES. SPECIFIC NEW PROJECTS WERE NOT DISCUSSED, SINCE MEETING ABBREVIATED BY OECD EMPLOYEES' STRIKE. SUGGESTED NEW PROJECTS, ON WHICH COMMENTS DUE TO SECRETARIAT BY FEBRUARY 15, INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF A SECOND GENERATION SST, NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND COSTS OF ACCIDENTAL OIL SPILLS.

(B) SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP, IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION, ENDORSED COMMITTEE'S INTEREST IN ADDRESSING BROAD ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT ISSUES AND AGREED WITH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THAT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SHOULD MAKE INPUT INTO IEA AND NEA WORK ON ENERGY ISSUES. COMMITTEE WILL PLAY ADVISORY ROLE IN NEW IEA SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM FOR OCEAN DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES.

(C) COMMITTEE APPROVED AND PASSED ON TO THE COUNCIL A  
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USEFUL NEW RECOMMENDATION ON EQUAL RIGHT OF ACCESS IN TRANSFRONTIER POLLUTION CASES. COMMITTEE APPARENTLY HEADING TOWARD A SECOND MINISTERIAL IN LATE 1978 RATHER THAN 1979. THEME LIKELY TO BE ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT.

(D) FLUOROCARBONS AND PCBS NOT ADDRESSED IN PLENARY SESSIONS BECAUSE OF CURTAILED MEETING. HOWEVER US CIR-

CULATED A PAPER DETAILING STATUS OF FLUOROCARBON REGULATION. WE CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR WIDER DISTRIBUTION OF OECD ENVIRONMENT DOCUMENTS. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR EARLY MAY. END SUMMARY.

2. 1978 PROGRAM : MAJOR THEME OF DISCUSSION OF 1978 PROGRAM WAS HOW TO FOCUS IT AND HOW OPTIMIZE IMPACT OF LIMITED RESOURCES. US PRESSED POINT THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD BE CONCENTRATING ON SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WHERE SOLUTIONS COULD BE SOUGHT : ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT, CHEMICALS, AND OTHER PROBLEMS WHERE COUNTRIES WERE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTING EACH OTHER. THIS FOLLOWED CLOSELY LINE TAKEN BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IN OCT 25 LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS, BUT DIFFERED IN SOME DEGREE FROM RATHER DIFFUSE DRAFT PROGRAM PAPER PRESENTED BY SECRETARIAT (ENV(76)41). SOME AMBIGUITY CONTINUED IN SECRETARIAT AND AMONG SOME AS BETWEEN PROJECTS WHICH ARE UNDERTAKEN MERELY FOR THEIR INFORMATION OR ADVISORY VALUE, AND PROJECTS WHICH ARE AIMED AT ADDRESSING AND SEEKING SOLUTIONS OF REAL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. SOME MOVEMENT IN DIRECTION OF STRESSING LATTER TYPE OF ACTIVITIES WAS ACHIEVED.

3. THE WHOLE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE NORTH-SOUTH ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE WAS DOWNPLAYED - BOTH IN SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT ENV(76)51, AND IN STATEMENT MADE TO COMMITTEE BY DEPUTY-SECRETARY GENERAL ELDIN. LATTER DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SECRETARY GENERAL'S MAIN INTEREST WAS IN HAVING COMMITTEE CONSIDER ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD TEND TO HARMONIZE MEMBERS' VIEWS ON ISSUES WHICH THEY FACED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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BROADER INTERNATIONAL FORA, SUCH AS LOS OR UN WATER CONFERENCE.

4. A MEMORANDUM PROPOSING GUIDELINES TO MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR SORTING OUT THE MANY DIFFERENT 1978 PROJECT PROPOSALS WAS WORKED OUT AS A RESULT OF COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND INFORMAL MEETING OF HEADS OF ENVCOM DELEGATIONS. IT SINGLES OUT THE MAIN AREAS OF US INTEREST, AS WELL AS CERTAIN WORTHWHILE CRITERIA PUT FORTH BY SECRETARIAT (E.G. THAT PROJECTS SHOULD BE TRULY INTERNATIONAL IN NATURE, THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE SOME ECONOMIC CONTENT).

5. DUE TO THE ABBREVIATED SESSION, THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION IN THE COMMITTEE OF ANY OF THE VARIOUS PROJECT PROPOSALS. COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REVIEW THE 20-25 ODD PROJECT PROPOSALS NOW IN THE HOPPER (PLUS ANY NEW ONES SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT BY DEC.24). THEY SHOULD FORWARD THEIR COMMENTS ON THE GENERAL THRUST OF

THE PROGRAM AND PRIORITIES AMONG THE PROJECTS TO THE  
SECRETARIAT BY FEBRUARY 15.

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6. ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT : AS NOTED, ONE OF THE  
THEMES OF US DELEGATION, WHICH DREW SUPPORT FROM COM-  
MITTEE, WAS IMPORTANCE OF FOCUSING ATTENTION ON ENERGY-  
ENVIRONMENT ISSUES IN FUTURE ACTIVITIES. WE STRESSED  
THAT SUCH ISSUES WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROACHED IN COOR-  
DINATION WITH, AND RELATE TO ISSUES OF CURRENT INTEREST  
TO THE ENERGY AGENCIES. SECRETARY GENERAL VAN  
LENNEP SUPPORTED THIS THEME DURING AN INFORMAL MEETING.  
HE STRESSED BELIEF THAT OECD SHOULD IN GENERAL BE CON-  
CENTRATING ON THE REAL ENERGY ISSUES FACED IN FUTURE BY  
MEMBERS. US LINE ALSO, INDEPENDENTLY, RECEIVED SUPPORT  
IN THE FORM OF THE PROPOSED THEME OF THE PROBABLE LATE  
1978 MINISTERIAL : ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT  
ENERGY POLICIES. ONE SPECIFIC ASPECT OF THE ENERGY-EN-  
VIRONMENT ISSUE WAS ADDRESSED WHEN COMMITTEE CONSIDERED:

7. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW NEA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR  
OCEAN DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES : A NUMBER OF COUN-  
TRIES EXPRESSED STRONG DISAPPROVAL OF ANY FORM OF OCEAN  
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DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES. HOWEVER, THEY AND MOST OTHERS GAVE GENERAL SUPPORT TO THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR IN RELATION TO THE COMMITTEE'S INVOLVEMENT IN A CONSULTATIVE ROLE IN THE NEA'S NEW SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM. THE NEA REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT STATED THAT THE AGENCY HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE IDEA OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PLAYING AN ADVISORY ROLE IN THE SYSTEM.

8. THE UK EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT WITH PROPER DOMESTIC COORDINATION ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS COULD BE ADEQUATELY COVERED VIA COUNTRIES' DELEGATES TO NEA SESSIONS. HOWEVER, A LARGE MAJORITY LED BY THE US FAVORED SOME TYPE OF INDEPENDENT ROLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - ON THE CONDITIONS THAT IT BE NEITHER AN OBSTRUCTIVE NOR A PRO FORMA ONE. THE CANADIAN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE PROPOSED NEA SYSTEM MIGHT BE MOVING IN DIRECTIONS WHICH WERE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE LONDON CONVENTION (SPECIFICALLY IN RELATION TO MONITORING AND LIABILITY ISSUES), BUT SAID THEY WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH NEA.

9. THE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT NEA GUIDELINES PROPOSED BY THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE NEA FOR CONSIDERATION.

10. TRANSFRONTIER POLLUTION : THIS WAS THE ONLY OTHER AGENDA ITEM COVERED IN THE STRIKE-SHORTENED MEETING. A SPECIAL DRAFTING SESSION ON THE RECOMMENDATION ON EQUAL RIGHT OF ACCESS (ENV(76)44) ELIMINATED MOST OF THE STILL PENDING ISSUES. A REVISED DRAFT WAS RESUBMITTED TO THE FULL COMMITTEE AND THE THREE UNRESOLVED ISSUES WERE SETTLED WITHOUT SERIOUS DIFFICULTY. THE ISSUE OF MOST INTEREST TO THE US (WHETHER OR NOT TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN PARA 1 OF TITLE A ABOUT "SIGNIFICANTLY" AFFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT OF OTHERS) WAS RESOLVED TO OUR SATISFACTION. REFERENCE TO CONSULTATIONS IN PARA (A) WAS

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ALSO RETAINED, WITH SPAIN RESERVING. THE RECOMMENDATION NOW GOES FORWARD TO COUNCIL.

11. THE SECRETARIAT REPORT ON NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL RIGHT OF ACCESS (ENV(76)43) WILL BE REFERRED BACK TO THE TRANSFRONTIER GROUP FOR REVIEW SINCE THE COMMITTEE DID NOT WANT IT SENT FORWARD TO THE COUNCIL

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WITHOUT IT BEING VETTED BY THE GROUP. LASTLY, THE  
MANDATE OF THE GROUP WAS EXTENDED FOR TWO YEARS (I.E.  
UNTIL MARCH 1979).

12. DERESTRICTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS : THE  
US COMMENDED THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE VERY RECENTLY  
PUBLISHED BOOK "THE OECD AND THE ENVIRONMENT", AND USED  
IT AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW INFORMATION CAN BE DISSEMINATED.  
WE URGED ALL MEMBERS TO REVIEW HOW OECD DOCUMENTS CAN  
BE GIVEN WIDER DISTRIBUTION IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. WE  
POINTED SPECIFICALLY TO THE UNCLASSIFIED INDEX OF ALL  
OECD DOCUMENTS AND SAID WE WERE CONTINUING TO SEEK WAYS  
TO ASSURE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE FOR THE USEFUL  
DERESTRICTED, BUT UNPUBLISHED ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
DOCUMENTATION.

13. FLUOROCARBONS AND PCBS : THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY  
TO RAISE IN COMMITTEE OUR POINTS ON EITHER FLUOROCARBONS  
OR PCBS, DUE TO THE ABBREVIATED MEETING. WE DID, HOWEVER,  
CIRCULATE A PAPER DESCRIBING THE RATIONALE FOR AND STATE  
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OF THE REGULATORY INITIATIVES IN THE US, AND USED INFORMAL OCCASIONS TO PRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING ON WITH THE OECD ACTIVITY. PCBS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF LABELING IN GENERAL, WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CHEMICALS GROUP. THERE IS A CLEAR CONSENSUS THAT A MAJOR NEEDED STEP IS TO DEFINE EXACTLY THE INTERNATIONAL ISSUE WHICH SPECIFICALLY NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED.

14. NEXT MEETING : THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS TENTATIVELY SET FOR THE FIRST WEEK IN MAY. (THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WILL THUS REDUCE ITS MEETINGS TO TWO IN 1977). THE SECRETARIAT WAS INSTRUCTED - AT THE URGING OF THE NETHERLANDS - TO TRY TO ARRANGE A HALF DAY OVERLAP WITH THE NEXT NEA STEERING GROUP SESSION SO THAT BOTH GROUPS COULD DISCUSS TOGETHER COOPERATION IN ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT ISSUES.

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## Message Attributes

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